REMARKS

In the last Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17-22, and

24-62 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,092,100 to

Berstis et al. ("Berstis") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,873,982 to Bates ("Bates").

By this amendment, claims 1, 6-8, 13-15, 20-22, 27-32, 36, 39, 51, 54, 57, and

60-62 have been amended. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17-22, and 24-62 remain currently

pending.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicant's

representative during a telephone interview on August 29, 2005. During the interview,

Applicant's representative discussed whether the prior art of record taught or suggested

the feature of learning a "social usage" of a resource identity signifier, which is radically

different from the notions of registered identifiers, as used in the conventional

identification of resources by Universal Resource Locators (URLs). Applicant

respectfully submits that this idea of a resource identity signifier based on social usage

is different and that neither Berstis nor Bates, alone or in combination, teach such a

feature. Accordingly, Applicant submits the following remarks.

As noted, in the last Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-8, 10-15,

17-22, and 24-62 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Berstis in view of

Bates. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 now recites, among other things, learning a social usage of the resource

identity signifier from multi-user feedback gathered from a plurality of users with respect

to previous results by the finder server and determining which, if any, of indexed

resources is likely to be the intended target resource that uniquely corresponds to the

recognized resource identity signifier based on the social usage of the recognized resource identity signifier. For example, if the user wants to find the network resource for the company that makes the game "Super Mario Brothers," but does not know the name of the company, the user may enter "Super Mario Brothers" as the resource identity signifier. Based on learning the social usage of this signifier, it can be determined that the user most likely is seeking the network resource for Nintendo. (See, e.g., Specification at pages 26-27.) As another example, the signifier "the company that commercialized Mosaic" may be mapped to the network resource for Netscape based on learning the social usage. (See, e.g., Specification at page 11, lines 21-25.) Another example may be found in the specification at page 29, lines 21-29.

By virtue of this feature, a user is able to find a desired network resource based on learning the social usage from feedback from plurality of users, without knowing any information resembling the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of the intended resource (i.e., information that is "independent" of the URL). Instead, the user merely has to enter an input that is recognized as a resource identity signifier, and multi-user feedback can be used to determine the likely intended network resource, even if the information in the signifier is independent of (or does not resemble) the URL of the intended resource.

In contrast, Berstis relates to a system for resolving an incorrect entry of a URL – that is an entry that is presumed by Berstis to have been entered by the user with the express intent that it be a URL or at least an approximation of a URL. In particular, Berstis teaches that if a user enters a URL that cannot be recognized, a determination of the correct URL is made based on a "fuzzy" detection scheme. (See Berstis at col. 5, line 50 through col. 6, line 39.)

Of note, in Berstis, the user must enter a string of characters that at least resembles the desired URL; otherwise, the fuzzy detection scheme does not work. As such, Berstis does not teach or suggest finding an intended network resource based on an entry of a resource identity signifier that is independent of a URL. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Berstis fails to teach or suggest at least the above-noted features of claim 1.

Furthermore, Bates fails to cure the deficiencies of Berstis. Bates appears to teach using feedback to order the results of a search. (See Bates at col. 6, lines 25-49 and at col. 13, line 64 through col. 14, line 32.) In particular, Bates teaches that various weights are assigned to keywords and these weights are used to sort the results of a search. (*Id.*) The weights are based on feedback from the user. Therefore, Bates merely teaches using feedback to order a set of results.

However, Applicant respectfully submit that using feedback to order a set of discovery search results, as taught by Bates, is not the same as learning a social usage of the resource identity signifier from multi-user feedback gathered from a plurality of users with respect to previous results by the finder server and determining which, if any, of indexed resources is likely to be the intended target resource that uniquely corresponds to the recognized resource identity signifier based on the social usage of the recognized resource identity signifier, as recited in claim 1. That is, Bates merely describes using feedback to sort a set of results for a discovery searching task, all of which may be more or less relevant to the search request, which is very different from learning a social usage of resource identity signifier, much less determining if an

indexed resource is likely to be the single intended target resource based on the social usage of the resource identity signifier.

Accordingly, even if Berstis and Bates were properly combinable (which they are not), the combination would still fail to teach or suggest the above-noted features of claim 1. Berstis teaches fuzzy detection of URLs having unique registered elements based on fuzzy matching to those registered elements. There is nothing in either Berstis or Bates to suggest that one is applicable to the very different contexts and objectives of the other. The registered nature and uniqueness of URLs in Berstis, and the fact that Berstis assumes that all entries are intended to be URLs, teaches against combining it with methods for responding to a discovery search query input that is presumed to specify content elements contained in the resource and not be an identifier for it, and in which the use of content-based indexes and feedback is used to determine a ranking of multiple results, all of which contain the requested content elements and are presumably of some relevance to the discovery search, as taught by Bates. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is distinguishable over the cited references.

As to independent claims 6-8, 13-15, 20-22, 27-32, 36, 39, 51, 54, 57, and 60-62, these claims have been amended to recite learning a social usage of a recognized resource identity signifier in a similar fashion to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 6-8, 13-15, 20-22, 27-32, 36, 39, 51, 54, 57, and 60-62 are also allowable for reasons similar to those presented above with respect to claim 1.

As to dependent claims 3-5, 10-12, 16-19, 24-26, 33-35, 37-38, 40-50, 52-53, 55-56, and 58-59, these claims are allowable based on their dependence from their

respective independent claims, as well as for their additional recitations. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17-22, and 24-62 are allowable.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17-22, and 24-62 in condition for allowance. Applicant submits that the proposed amendments of the claims do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.
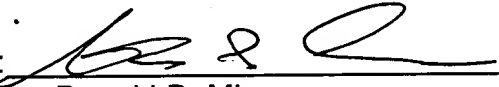
Furthermore, Applicant respectfully points out that the final action by the Examiner presented some new arguments as to the application of the art against Applicant's invention. It is respectfully submitted that the entering of the Amendment would allow the Applicant to reply to the final rejections and place the application in condition for allowance. Finally, Applicant submits that the entry of the amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicant therefore requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge

any additional required fees to our deposit account 50-2961.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 31, 2005   By: _____

Donald D. Min
Reg. No. 47,796

Anderson I. Chen
Reg. No. 44,436